



## 2023 Library Visit Interview Form

**Library Name:** Lodi Woman's Club Public Library

**Certification Grade:** 2

**Date of visit:** 9/5/2023

**Library staff present at the visit:** Alex LeClair

**SCLS staff present:** Brian Hahn

**Amount of time spent at visit:** No visit, he answered all questions in an email

**[Please limit this section to the answers to the specific questions, and include as much detail as possible. Report other information or observations in the “other information” section below.]**

1. What's new and/or innovative at your library?
  - Our summer library program is pretty innovative in its combination of abundant prizes, plentiful events, fun activities, and smart design/promotion. Prize rooms aren't unique, but ours being in an old bank vault and being so crucial to our summer program feels unique.
  - Our weekly story time is also fairly innovative in its combination of stories, music and STEM/balance material play afterwards.
  - We created a YouTube channel called DuckTownTV that has some innovative ideas. Initially I thought it would be fun to create a kind of PBS show format, mini sketches, mini educational videos, a few songs. But then the mini movie is really what seemed to connect. If we found a good work flow making mini movies, I thought it would be fun to turn our play area for kids into a kind of Toy Story set, where the toys star in their own digital mini movies. Since YouTube is so popular with kids and teens, I thought this could be a fun program in the future, maybe the summer, where kids/teens help us make movies. But right now it's just a side project for me during my off-work hours and that might be how it remains. I made one using my son's dinosaur toys and it racked up 35,000 views, so I think the mini movies could be popular and if kids/teens helped, it could teach useful skills like writing, cinematography, editing, publishing, etc.
  
2. What are the next projects (big or small) on your library's to-do list in the coming year?
  - I'm interested in transitioning story time to a co-worker, maybe teaching her to play the songs on ukulele. I'm a little burned out and taking the weekly story time off my plate might help me focus on my more administrative duties.
  - I'm possibly looking to add another staff member to the mix. I was going to increase the hours of one staff member, but then I just had another staff member take an additional part-time job at Oregon, which means she'll need fewer hours here. It's hard to retain staff when you can't offer health benefits. But when this employee moves from 29 hours to 20, it could create an opening to hire an additional employee at 15 or so hours. I have to

scramble on that quick, since the budget proposal is nearly due. I'll be crunching some numbers this week...

- Renovations: New landscape design for the front of the building
3. What challenges or concerns are your library facing now and in the near future?
    - Biggest challenges are finding funding (city, county, donations, and grants) and sustaining success, such as the summer library program. We're often ambitious with what we do, but that requires keeping a lot of plates spinning at once, so I hope our funding increases and our crucial staff don't leave, because that'll limit what we can do. We can always hire new people, but hiring and training takes plenty of time. There's a lot to learn.
  4. How might SCLS help your library or staff with your challenges, concerns or projects?
    - I'm not sure there is much you can do. Making sure BiblioVation and other tech run smoothly goes a long way.
  5. What would you like to see SCLS focus on or prioritize in the coming year?
    - That's hard, because I'm not certain what's most useful from your end. I think putting money in places that get the most use is a good thing to do. Making sure BiblioVation runs smoothly is helpful. Most SCLS staff are good at communicating, but sometimes I'll send out emails and it's not really clear if the email was received or not. That's something that might help, but I'm not trying to be too critical about that. I feel like my communication can always be better too.
  6. Is there anything else you'd like to share or discuss?
    - Nothing springs to mind, but I'll ask staff if they have anything.

**Other information gathered at the visit (interesting tidbits, general impressions of the library, or alternative topics):**